ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An e-mail sender client accesses an e-mail message and sets an associated "eyes-only" indicator indicating that functions that limit the opportunity to disseminate e-mail messages are to be applied to the e-mail message. The e-mail sender client then encrypts the e-mail message, and dispatches the e-mail message to the e-mail reader client in encrypted form. Upon receipt, the e-mail server determines that the e-mail message has the eyes-only indicator set. In response, the e-mail server verifies that the e-mail reader client is capable of implementing the "eyes-only" functions and authenticates the user of the e-mail reader client as being an intended recipient. The e-mail server then transmits the encrypted e-mail message to the e-mail reader client. Upon receipt, the e-mail reader client determines that the e-mail message has an associated "eyes-only" indicator set, and then applies the appropriate "eyes-only" functions to the e-mail message.

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